

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn; previously amended) A process for preparing polymeric beads of complexing resin incorporating magnetic particles, which process comprises: producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more polymerizable monomers, magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said magnetic particles in the organic phase; polymerizing said one or more polymerizable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

2-18. Cancelled.

19. (Currently Amended) Polymeric beads of complexing resin comprising a polymer matrix having magnetic particles and a dispersing agent dispersed substantially uniformly therein, wherein the polymer matrix incorporates amine groups ~~capable of complexing a~~ that are complexed with transition metal cation.

20. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads of claim 19, wherein the dispersing agent is covalently bound within the polymeric matrix.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Polymeric~~ The polymeric beads of ~~complexing resin~~ claim 19 prepared by a process which comprises:

(a) producing a dispersion having a continuous aqueous phase and a dispersed organic phase, said organic phase comprising one or more polymerizable monomers,

magnetic particles and a dispersing agent for dispersing said magnetic particles in the organic phase; polymerizing said one or more polymerizable monomers to form polymeric beads incorporating said magnetic particles, wherein said polymeric beads include amine groups that are capable of complexing a transition metal cation and that are provided by polymerized residues of said one or more polymerizable monomers, or wherein said polymeric beads are reacted with one or more compounds to provide amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation[[]] ; and

(b) contacting the so-formed polymeric beads with an aqueous solution comprising transition metal cations such that the amine groups of the beads complex with transition metal cations.

22. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein the organic phase comprises two or more monomers.

23. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein said one or more polymerizable monomers are selected from:

- (a) crosslinking monomers which are able to provide crosslink points; and
- (b) functional monomers which are able to provide functional groups.

24. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 23 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

25. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 24 wherein said functional monomer provides amine groups selected from dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, aminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminopropyl acrylamide and methacrylamide, vinyl pyridine, organic-soluble diallylamine and vinylimidazole salts.

26. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 23 wherein said functional monomer includes a functional group capable of reaction with one or more compounds to provide said amine groups capable of complexing a transition metal cation.

27. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an amide group.
28. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 27 wherein said functional monomer including an amide group is selected from N-vinyl formamide and N-methyl-N-vinyl acetamide.
29. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups includes an epoxy group.
30. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 29 wherein said functional monomer including an epoxy group is glycidyl methacrylate.
31. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 26 wherein said functional monomer capable of providing amine groups is a vinyl ester.
32. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 31 wherein said vinyl ester is selected from acrylate and methacrylate esters.
33. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 32 wherein the acrylate ester is methyl acrylate.
34. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein said one or more polymerizable monomers further includes one or more back bone monomers.
35. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein said dispersed organic phase further comprises a porogen.
36. (Currently Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 24 19 wherein the magnetic particles are selected from  $\gamma$ -iron oxide, magnetite and chromium dioxide.
37. (Previously Amended) The polymeric beads according to claim 21 wherein the dispersion is stabilized using a stabilizing agent.